



Louis Paul Lecour Jr.

March 17, 1924 - January 11, 2011

Louis Paul Lecour, Jr.

Louis Paul Lecour, Jr., 86, died of complications of stroke and other health issues Tuesday, January 11, 2011 at his home in historic Riverview. His wife of 38 years, Peggy Ann Randles Lecour, was at his side. Mr. Lecour was born March 17, 1924 in Kankakee, the son of Louis P. and Jeanette (Granger) Lecour. He was a member of a pioneer merchant family in Kankakee. His grandfather, Joseph Lecour, founded the department store bearing his name in 1859. It was continually operated by the family for 105 years. During World War II Mr. Lecour served in harm's way as a radioman in the U.S. Navy off the coast of England. A graduate of Kankakee Senior High School, he received his bachelor's and master's degree from Bradley University, Peoria.

"Paul loved Peoria as much as he did Kankakee," Mrs. Lecour said, of why he elected to stay in central Illinois to start his retail career in automobiles. From a half-size city lot, Lecour's evolved into Lecour's Small Car World, which specialized in European sports cars including Triumph and MGs. A Volvo distributorship followed before he secured one of the first Toyota dealerships in the state. A business leader in Peoria, his businesses and other properties along Main Street helped to anchor the downtown area before, during and after the city's Renaissance.

He was known as the go-to guy for anything automotive, making weekly visits to the car auctions on the southside of Chicago and honing his respect for history to include an anecdote or two about the model of car that debuted in

any particular year. Mr. Lecour loved to travel. He and his wife toured the U.S. and visited Sweden, Japan, Mexico and the Bahamas. In addition to his wife, Mr. Lecour is survived by his daughter, Lisa Lecour of Peoria, a sister Jacqueline Lecour Gibbons of Chicago, one niece Paula Hirsch of Missouri, a nephew Jed Gibbons of Chicago and two stepchildren, David Hammond of Vermont and Peggy Ann Swanlund of California. A niece, Laura Gibbons, is deceased. Memorials may be made to Hospice of Kankakee Valley, The Salvation Army and Animal Haven-Kankakee County Humane Society. Cremation rites will be accorded by Clancy-Gernon-Hertz Funeral Home in Kankakee. A private service is planned.

Tribute Wall

CD

“ Dear Peggy,
May your heart be filled with wonderful memories of Paul...
May God Bless always, Carmen

Carmen Deese - January 24, 2011 at 10:57 AM

MS

“ Dear Peggy, I am having trouble sending this message to you. Hope this fifth attempt will make it. I am very sorry to hear about your dear Paul's death. We all loved him and hate knowing he is not in this world anymore with us. He was a wonderful friend. I am so sorry we lost touch after you moved. Love and prayers, Mary Sallee-Young

Mary Sallee-Young - January 23, 2011 at 10:20 PM

DH

“ David Hammond lit a candle in memory of
Louis Paul Lecour Jr.




David Hammond - January 22, 2011 at 01:24 PM

DH

May he rest in peace. I love you Mom. -- David

David Hammond - January 22, 2011 at 01:26 PM

 Lana
Seedorf
Rechkemmer

“ Peggy, I am sorry to hear of your loss. Your devotional love for him shined with every visit I made to your home. Lana Rechkemmer (home health aide, from Provena Home Care)

Lana Seedorf Rechkemmer - January 17, 2011 at 08:36 PM

PP

“ Peggy, so sorry to hear of Paul's passing. Please know that my thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

Peggy Patten - January 16, 2011 at 03:44 PM



“ Peggy, we were so sorry to hear of your loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. John and Laura Johnson

Laura Johnson - January 15, 2011 at 09:48 PM

JN

“ It has been a long time since you left Peoria, Peggy. Know that my thoughts are with you at this time.

Joe Nohl - January 15, 2011 at 07:42 PM

KM

“ Thinking of you, Dear Peggy.

Kerry McCoy - January 15, 2011 at 07:31 PM

ML

“ thoughts and prayers are with you, Peggy.

Maria Lane - January 15, 2011 at 07:25 PM

GW

“ Paul was a good and well loved man. My heart is with Peggy, who has been in my thoughts throughout the years since the move from Peoria. Peggy I love and miss you and am praying for you to be strong.

Love, Gina

Gina Wright - January 15, 2011 at 07:12 PM

KS

“ Paul Lecour was such a important person in my life. I remember all the Christmas Eve's where Paul & Peggy would come to our house. His favorite always being the shrimp cocktail my Mom Doris would make especially for him. Rest in Peace.....Friend
Sincerely Kari Smith

Kari Smith - January 15, 2011 at 03:36 PM

RR

“ Richard Marlene Randles lit a candle in memory of Louis Paul Lecour Jr.



Richard Marlene Randles - January 15, 2011 at 02:30 PM

RM

“ I,m also very glad to have known Paul, he was a customer of mine, and I new him from my business on Main St. Anecdote or two, maybe three, how he kept little known facts and figures of models of cars from so many years in the past was beyond me, and was known for his ability to drive a car for a short period of time and tell you which shock needed replaced, amazing!! My thoughts go out to his wife and entire family. An Icon to the automobile businesses here in Peoria.
Ron Mayeur

Ron Mayeur - January 15, 2011 at 10:56 AM

NG

“ Peggy, I am so sorry for your loss. Paul will be missed. I am remembering you in my prayers.
Norm Graham and family

Norm Graham - January 15, 2011 at 10:44 AM

BR

“ Paul was one of two persons who provided me with inspiration that will last for the rest of my life. As I think about the people I've shared this inspiration with, it is quite clear that the impact of Paul's life will endure for a very long time yet to come. A friend of mine will appear on Oprah in February.....and I would have never met this friend had it not been for Paul. Paul and I shared a common interest - and soon enough all of you will be a part of this interest too. The world is a better place because of Paul and his passing is truly a very sorrowful event, and yet.....he lives!

Bill Rivard - January 13, 2011 at 07:20 PM